

769th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy)



November 8, 2002 — Issue 7

Soldiers of the 769th Engineer Battalion:

Halloween brought out the ghouls and goblins this past Thursday night. Thanks to everyone who participated in the costume contest. I must say I saw some great creativity in the costumes that many of the soldiers sported. Congratulations to the top three winners. They were: SPC Ricard, SGT Carrol, and SPC Bushey. Each received a minor league T-shirt and cap.

I would also like to sincerely thank 1LT Townley for her efforts in organizing the event. She and her band of volunteers were able to secure goodies from our friends Ms. Laura Fields and Mr. Rodney Clark from the American Red Cross. CSM Serio and MSG Scott were able to acquire food and drinks for us all to enjoy from their various contacts throughout the base.

A routine survey was conducted by the

post IG last week. Many of our soldiers had the opportunity to express their concerns and suggestions regarding the deployment. COL Huggins and CSM Boone took note of what was said and will compile a report of the visit. I will share his findings with your leadership and together, we will continue to ensure our soldiers are not taken for granted and that genuine concern for the safety, morale and welfare is the number one priority.

A half-court basketball tournament was hosted by our 82nd neighbors from across the street. Seven of the fourteen teams were from the 769th. Although we did not come out on top, all were winners for their athletic participation



Pictured above from left to right:
SFC Dykes, LTC Boutte, CSM Serio, & SSG Bronson

in Bagram's first ever b-ball games. The fans should get a round of applause for rooting for our soldiers. SGT Nelson can jump as displayed by his winning attitude. I thought all he could do was type.

What else is left? Just a few more months. Keep up the good work.

Fall Festival

There was a huge turn out for the first and only Fall Fest held by the 769th EN BN. The festivities included music, a costume contest, and lots and lots of food. SPC "Kitty" Ricard was the winner of the costume contest. I want to thank all those who help set up and cook. It would not have been possible without everyone's participation. Get ready for the next party which will be held on Thanksgiving. I need a volunteer to dress up as a turkey. I'm sure we have some winners out there. Gobble, gobble, bah, bah, bah!



SOLDIER PROFILE

Each week, this newsletter would like to recognize an exceptional soldier or group of soldiers for his or her commitment and positive work ethic. Please send recommendations to 1LT Townley and the reasons why you think a particular soldier(s) should be recognized.

This week the newsletter crew would like to recognize S-4 and HSC Company Supply sections. These soldiers work long hard hours in ensuring that everyone is issued the proper gear as well as the extra comfort necessities while we are stationed in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. We could not do our jobs without your support.



A few words from CSM Serio...

Good job to everyone in ensuring their areas were properly cared for in expectation of the core CSM's visit. We have standards to meet and with everyone's participation and commitment, I feel as though there is nothing we can't accomplish together.

Our battalion commander and I also have expectations for tent and camp maintenance. Every tent should now have posted tent SOP's. The rules and requirements are not new and should not be a surprise to you. Fire extinguishers should be mounted near each exit of your tent as well as an updated roster of the occupants. Following the guidelines as set forth by the SOP will only increase the level

of cleanliness, safety and reduction of critters from our living areas.

I hope everyone enjoyed the barbeque put on this past Sunday. Thanks to our great cooks for making sure everyone who showed up had enough to eat and drink.

Basketball wasn't the only thing played this weekend. Volleyball teams from around the camp squared off in the sand. Dominoes and spades were table games of choice for those not wanting to get a bit of sand in their shoes or boots. SSG Bronson is doing a superb job on providing games and sports for our Sunday siesta. I appreciate her and I know you all do too.



CSM James Serio

Not to forget our troops in Khandahar, I am attempting to make my way down to see them sometime in the next few days. I have heard some good things about them from MAJ Luce and CPT Hudson. If you would like to send them greetings, see me before I leave. Until then, stay focused and drive on.

Chaplain's Corner

As perhaps no one else in our society, veterans know the meaning of the word sacrifice. When the call of nation came, they went forward.

What does the word "sacrifice" mean?

To leave family, friends, and jobs behind, that's sacrifice.

To leave the pursuits of peace and learn the art of war, that's sacrifice.

To stay on a battlefield when every fiber of your being says run away, that's sacrifice. Yet they did it for their buddies, for their country, for their principles.

To leave behind comrades, and carry a lifetime of memories of those who missed the homecoming, that's sacrifice.

To suffer wounds of body, spirit, and mind, that's sacrifice.

To lay down one's life for one's friends, that's sacrifice.

According to the Bible, it was a centurion soldier who was the first Gentile to recognize Jesus as the Son of God (Mark 15:39). When he looked at the tragic figure on the cross, he immediately recognized who Jesus was.

Now you know it was a veteran who recognized the greatest sacrifice of love.

Thanks veterans, and God bless you all!

Chaplain Sanders



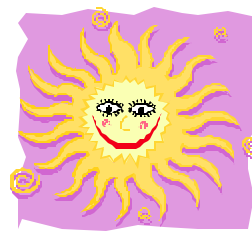
Camp Cajun Weather Forecast

Friday: 75/ 40 Sunny

Saturday: 75/ 40 Sunny

Sunday: 75/ 40 Sunny

Monday: 75/ 40 Sunny



Dungeon & Dragons

This group of unique individuals spend their spare time in the evening acting out characters from the fantasy game Dungeons & Dragons. If you would like to partake in this activity just come on in and you will be welcomed with open arms. Bring your swords, spells and magic potions.

Welcome 678 EN

The 769th has a new addition to our family. The 678th replaced the 115th and moved in down the street. They now fall under the 769th EN BN command. If you see any of these soldiers, don't be shy. Give them a warm southern welcome. Hope to see ya'll at the next volleyball game which is held every Sunday in Camp Cajun. This group is commanded by CPT Sumner and SFC Doxley.



What special activities or items of interest would you like to see for the upcoming holiday season?

“Cajun injected fried turkeys.” SPC Fuller

“A bon-fire with marshmallows, graham crackers and chocolate.” 1LT Townley

“Exchanging presents. I want a plane ticket.” SGT Christmas

“Gimmie some grub. Bring it on.” SPC Slaughter

“Santa Claus” 2LT Bendich



Question of the Week

What are some of the funny situations you’ve seen while stationed in Bagram, Afghanistan?

Submit answers to 1LT Townley

Wrapping Things Up

Alpha Company Electricians are putting the last finishing touches on the TOC. The TOC has been under-going renovations for the past couple of months and is now complete. It’s hard to believe this is the same building that was here when the first of the 769th EN BN arrived back in June. A special thanks goes out to all those who participated in these renovations.



Pouring Concrete

The Slovaks, with the assistance of the 769th, are in the process of pouring several slabs of concrete on the north end of the airfield. They are extending the runway and making improvements to the surface to allow larger aircraft to land here at Bagram Airfield.



The Man Who Killed a Thousand Flies

You heard me right. CPT Stuart Burruss from battalion S4 has been on a mission. He is going to kill as many flies as it takes until they are all gone. As of today he has killed over 1,200 flies and the number is growing by the hour. Flies are one of the most annoying pests in Bagram and CPT Burruss is definitely trying to cut down on this nuisance. Thank you for your dedication and eagle eye to lowering the fly population around Bagram Airbase.

The Heat is On

And man is it hot! Brown and Root contractors have finally been authorized to turn on the heaters. The Wilms units are rated at 500,000 BTUs and have a proven track record. Units like these have been utilized at bases in Bosnia and Kosovo and were the heaters of choice for all camps located in Afghanistan. The units are powerful enough to heat up to eight tents, although only six tents are being connected to each unit.

Some cautions about the heaters are: no smoking is allowed near the units since each is fed from 250 gallon fuel tanks; please refrain from adjusting the thermostat since there is only one per unit and it affects the temperature in six tents; do not try to make adjustments yourself, contact Brown and Root personnel; do not block the heat ducts. Report any malfunctions to the tent NCOIC.



Carpenters Assisting with their Expertise

The 769th soldiers have been working alongside other coalition forces throughout this deployment. Alpha Company carpenters have been building storage boxes for French Coalition Forces.

The 769th EN BN is very fortunate to have such a skilled group of soldiers in this battalion. It is your dedication, commitment and attention to detail that makes this battalion a household name here in Bagram.



Pictured are SGT Garcia & SPC Amis

Party Pics



SPC Provo & PFC Allen



SPC Jones & SPC Delahaye



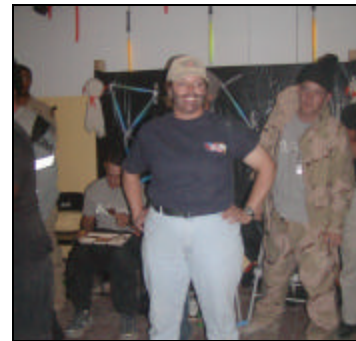
SSG McNaughton & CPL Allen



SPC Jones, SPC Provo, SPC Landry



SGT Daiy & SSG Venable



CPL Stuart



SGT Brown



SPC Gibson

Prime Power

249th Prime Power is one of the Engineer Organizations that fall under the 769th EN BN command. This is a very unique group of people made up of military as well as civilian contractors hired to ensure that Bagram Airbase has Electricity. The compound houses 12 generators, 8 of which are online now to power the base. The civilian made Aggreko generators have at a capacity of 1200 watts each at full power, however they only need to be operated at a reduced rate to fulfill the needs of this airbase.



SPC Slaughter and SPC Hasselbeck
Caught in the Act

DS Maintenance personnel shown here are finishing up their job of replacing an engine in one of the battalion's decon units. This piece of equipment is utilized in the decontamination of vehicles and personnel after biological or chemical exposure. During routine maintenance it was discovered that the engine required more than just the normal service and had to undergo an overhaul.

Hoops

The 769th EN BN participated in the basketball tournament sponsored by the 82nd Airborne Division this past Sunday. Although our teams did not come out on top, they put up a good fight and proudly represented the 769th. Shown is PFC McCoy scoring a point for his team. Good job to all those who participated in the tournament.



CPT Perkins sporting his
World's Greatest Dad
t-shirt and toe socks.

If you have anything you would like published in the newsletter please submit to 1LT Townley.

Written & Published by:
1LT Townley
SSG Thompson
Photos by : 1LT Townley
& SPC Haines